

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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P R 281445Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7505

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, WZ (MKHONZA, ZACHARIAH)

SUBJECT: IVP ZACHARIAH MKHONZA (CORRECTED SPELLING OF
LAST NAME)

REFS: A. MBABANE A-079, NOVEMBER 5, 1974;

B. STATE 002255

1. MKHONZA ACCEPTS WITH PLEASURE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR'S GRANT (CODE 210) FOR A PERIOD OF CONSULTATION AND TRAVEL IN THE UNITED STATES. IN MEETING WITHBOFFS JANUARY 27, MKHONZA ASKED THAT HIS TRAVEL BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 9. REASON FOR THE EARLY DEPARTURE IS THAT KMHONZA SERVES AS PROTOCOL OFFICER FOR KING SOBHUZA; SINCE HIS MAJESTY WILL BE IN SECLUSION FOR SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF THE QUEEN MOTHER ON JANUARY 22, NEXT TWO MONTHS ARE IDEAL TIME FOR MKHONZA TO BE AWAY. CHARGE EXPLAINED THE

MONTHS'S ADVANCED NOTICE WAS NORMALLY REQUIRED TO ARRANGE ADEQUATE IV PROGRAM BUT AGREED TO ASK DEPARTMENT TO ARRANGE 4-5 WEEK PROGRAM BEGINNING FEBRUARY 17.

2. EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT MKHONZA SPENDS FIRST TWO WEEKS IN WASHINGTON, OBSERVING THE OPERATIONS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT PROTOCOL OFFICE. DURING THIS PERIOD, HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO DISCUSS U.S. COMMERCIAL ATTACHE PROGRAM WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AT STATE AND COMMERCE. (GOS IS PLANNING TO ASSIGN COMMERCIAL ATTACHES TO ITS MISSIONS ABROAD IN 1975.) MKHONZA WOULD NOT NEED AN ESCORT
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DURING THIS PERIOD OF THE TRIP.

3. FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, WE SUGGEST MKHONZA SPEND TWO TO THREE WEEKS VISITING THE STATE DEPARTMENT REGIONAL RECEPTION CENTERS AT NEW YORK, MIAMI, NEW ORLEANS AND SAN FRANCISCO AS WELL AS A FEW TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN THESE AREAS. ESCORT RECOMMENDED FOR THIS PORTION OF HIS TRIP. MKHONZA CONCURS IN THIS TENTATIVE PROGRAM.

4. EMBASSY REGRETS SHORT NOTICE BUT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND EASTER IS BEST TIME FOR MKHONZA TO TRAVEL. MKHONAZ IS BRIGHT, ENERGETIC, SERIOUS-MINDED GOS OFFICIAL, AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH OFFICE OF PROTOCOL AND SEE SOMETHING OF U.S. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST IF DEPARTMENT CAN ORGANIZE PROGRAM ALONG LINES INDICATED, TO BEGIN FEBRUARY 17 IN WASHINGTON.

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